# Lesson 21 Hosea 6-7:1-2 Let Us Return to the Lord

(Faith) The Catechism references Hosea 6:1-6 as well as John 1:17 to express our hope of salvation in the “new and eternal covenant in his Christ” connecting Hosea’s prophecy and Jesus being raised on the “third day” to the resurrection of our bodies on the Last Day.
How does this connection of Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment
support your faith in the resurrection of the body?

Hosea 6:1-3

1 “Come, let us return to the LORD, for it is he who has torn, but he will heal us;
 he has struck down, but he will bind our wounds.

2 He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence.

3 Let us know, let us strive to know the LORD; as certain as the dawn is his coming.
 He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth.”

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When we say "our" Father, we recognize first that all his promises of love announced by the prophets are fulfilled in the new and eternal covenant in his Christ: we have become "his" people and he is henceforth "our" God. This new relationship is the purely gratuitous gift of belonging to each other: we are to respond to "grace and truth" given us in Jesus Christ with love and faithfulness.
(John 1:17; cf. Hosea 2:21-22; 6:1-6.)

 (Hope) The Catechism speaks of the Beatific Vision of God as our confident hope due to the Grace of God.
How does Hosea’s prophecy of the faithful being called “to live in His presence”
equate to the “Beatific Vision of God?”

Hosea 6:2

2 He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence.

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When God reveals Himself and calls him, man cannot fully respond to the divine love by his own powers. He must hope that God will give him the capacity to love Him in return and to act in conformity with the commandments of charity. Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision of God; it is also the fear of offending God's love and of incurring punishment.

 (Love) How is love of your neighbor and a personal relationship with Jesus
an acceptable sacrifice before God?

Hosea 6:6

For it is loyalty that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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Outward sacrifice, to be genuine, must be the expression of spiritual sacrifice: "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit. ... " The prophets of the Old Covenant often denounced sacrifices that were not from the heart or not coupled with love of neighbor. Jesus recalls the words of the prophet Hosea: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." The only perfect sacrifice is the one that Christ offered on the cross as a total offering to the Father's love and for our salvation.
By uniting ourselves with his sacrifice we can make our lives a sacrifice to God.